

# The Methodology of How Often to Detail Your Car

## 1. Objective

This calculator was designed to recommend how often a car should be detailed based on real-world lifestyle and environmental factors rather than a one-size-fits-all rule. The goal is to generate a personalized detailing interval that reflects how the vehicle is actually used and what kind of climate it faces.

## 2. Inputs and Variables

The model takes into account several user-provided factors that most directly affect how quickly a vehicle accumulates dirt, damage, or wear:

- Driving frequency: daily, weekly, or occasional use
- Passengers: kids, pets, or food in the car
- Weather and climate: hot and dry, cold and snowy, humid, or mixed
- Cleanliness preference: how pristine the user likes to keep their car

These factors were selected based on interviews with professional auto detailers, internal Panda Hub service data, and public detailing recommendations from leading car-care experts.

## 3. Scoring Model

Each input contributes to a cumulative score representing the “wear and contamination rate” of the vehicle.

- High-impact factors (like kids, pets, or snowy climates) add more weight.
- Low-impact factors (like garaged storage or occasional use) reduce the score.

That total score maps to one of three recommendation tiers:

- Elite Detailer → every 2 weeks (Show car, high-end, or rideshare use in heavy traffic)
- Proactive Detailer → every month (Daily driver with kids, pets, or allergy)
- Frequent Detailer → every 3 months (heavy use or harsh weather)
- Moderate Detailer → every 6 months (average use and environment)
- Occasional Detailer → every 12 months (light use or mild weather)

## 4. Validation and Benchmarking

To make sure the results align with real-world standards, Panda Hub's recommendations were compared against:

- Industry norms from professional detailing associations (which typically suggest every 4–6 months for an average driver).
- Seasonal data showing how weather types (e.g., snow/salt vs. dust/pollen) accelerate surface and interior contamination.
- Panda Hub's own service records, analyzing how often returning customers in each region booked details and what condition their cars were in.

## 5. Regional Adaptability

Unlike static advice that assumes a single climate, this model adjusts for regional weather inputs.

- Snowy regions lean toward shorter intervals because of salt, slush, and mud buildup.
- Dry or desert climates increase detailing frequency due to dust abrasion and UV exposure.
- Humid or coastal areas emphasize interior care because of mold and moisture risk.

By factoring in these variables, the calculator stays relevant across Canada, the U.S., and similar environments without being tied to one city or province.

## 6. Limitations

The calculator relies on user-reported data, so results assume accurate inputs. Specialty or commercial vehicles (taxis, fleet cars, classic cars) may require separate schedules. Extreme climates or neglected maintenance can also shorten the effective detailing interval.

## 7. Continuous Improvement

As Panda Hub gathers more anonymized data from completed details, the model will be refined to improve accuracy. Future versions may incorporate additional factors such as ceramic coating protection, average trip length, and local pollution index.